

**STAFF EVALUATION
FOR SEPA ADDENDUM**

File No: E14-0012

I. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

The proposal is an addendum to the FEIS for the 1995 Comprehensive Land Use Plan to for a portion of the required 2015 Growth Management Act (GMA) Update to the Comprehensive Plan. This is a non-project action.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name: 2014 Elements for 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Applicant: City of Tukwila

Location: Citywide

Zoning and Comprehensive

Plan Designation: Citywide

The following information was considered as part of review of this application:

1. Proposed new Parks, Recreation and Open Space element, and propose revisions to Community Image and Identity, Economic Development, Tukwila South and Roles and Responsibilities elements.
2. SEPA checklist

III. REVIEW PROCESS

The proposed action is subject to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review as the project does not meet the exemptions listed under WAC 197-11-800.

IV. PROPOSAL

The City of Tukwila is proposing amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code to address changes in the Growth Management, and regional planning documents as part of the 2015 update to the Comprehensive Plan as required by RCW 36.70a.130. Comprehensive Plan amendments

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can be adopted by the City Council once per year, except in cases of emergency, as authorized by the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and the Tukwila Municipal Code Chapter 18.80. The amendments discussed in this Addendum will be adopted during 2014 i.e. prior to the June 30, 2015 deadline. This is a non-project (programmatic) EIS Addendum.

V. SEPA COMPLIANCE:

The Draft EIS (DEIS) for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan was issued on June 27, 1995(File # L92-0053). It was circulated to adjacent jurisdictions, affected agencies and other parties with an interest. Comments were due on August 11, 1995 (extended from July 27, 1995). After comments were reviewed, the Final EIS (FEIS) was issued on October 9, 1995. An addendum to the FEIS addressing Zoning Code amendments was issued on November 15, 1995. Both the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Code were adopted on December 4, 1995. In 2004, an addendum to the FEIS was prepared. The addendum addressed: 1) revisions to the sensitive areas ordinance incorporating Best Available Science; and 2) limited technical revisions to several other elements to reflect changes to the Growth Management Act. The addendum to the FEIS was issued on April 4, 2004. In 2013, a subsequent addendum to the FEIS was issued (File #13-0004). It dealt with changes to the Comprehensive Plan that were being adopted that year as part of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update. The 2013 SEPA addendum covered changes to the Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Southcenter, Natural Environment and Shoreline (narrative only) elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

This is a non-project action. All environmental impacts were adequately addressed by the 1995 Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the City of Tukwila Comprehensive Plan, and 2004 Addendum. Further, subsequent “project” actions will require the submittal of separate environmental review. These will be analyzed for consistency with the original mitigating conditions and could require new mitigation based on specific conditions.

VII. SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS:

Changes to Comprehensive Plan policies addressed in the 2014 Addendum (File #E14-0012) reflect changes to the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA), and regional policies that are contained in documents (Vision 2040 and King County Countywide Policy Plan). Vision 2040 and King County Countywide Policies have received environmental review. In general, the policies contained in these documents are intended to minimize environmental impacts through guidance for sustainable development, and compact regional growth patterns.

Tukwila is updating its Comprehensive Plan in phases over several years. The proposed amendments discussed in this Addendum address five of the Comprehensive Plan’s 15 elements that are being considered in 2014. These elements include a new Parks, Recreation and Open Space element, and

updates to the Community Image and Identity, Economic Development, Tukwila South, and Roles and Responsibilities elements. Overall Comprehensive Plan priorities remain unchanged. In general, the elements have been reorganized and the policies regrouped and edited for greater clarity. Some policies and/or language from Vision 2040 and from King County's Countywide Planning Policies (2012) has been incorporated, as well as policies reflecting Tukwila's Strategic Plan (2012).

The primary changes are as follows:

- A. A new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element has been added. It consolidates existing parks-related policies that have been moved from other elements, and closely reflects the 2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- B. Revisions to the Community Image and Identity Element include adding policies that encourage healthy lifestyles and nutritious food choices, embrace cultural diversity and take proactive steps to encourage a positive image for Tukwila.
- C. Proposed policy changes for the Tukwila South Element reflect progress that has been made in this area since the 2004 update. Revisions include incorporating the Tukwila South Master Plan, and certain parts of the Sensitive Areas Master Plan (SAMP) and Development Agreement in the policies, and updating outdated language that references the need for an area-wide master plan since the master plan has been adopted.
- D. The Economic Development Element has been revised to reflect changed conditions and priorities. The recommended element adds language that addresses improving the "employability" of City residents, updates the "Economic Setting" section with current data from the City's Strategic Plan and from the Puget Sound Regional Council, and removes references to code enforcement..
- E. Revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities Element emphasize the need for clear communication that is culturally and linguistically inclusive, promote the importance of forming partnerships with local service providers to address the needs of Tukwila residents, and recognize the value of regional collaboration. .

VII. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The City of Tukwila Draft and Final EIS provided extensive analysis of the environmental impacts associated with implementing the 1995 Comprehensive Plan. The nature of the proposed changes is such that none results in significant impacts, some reduce potential environmental impacts and all remain within the range of alternatives examined in the DEIS and FEIS.

Staff has reviewed and proposed amendments and has found that they are consistent with the scope of the EIS. Therefore, this action will not create additional or significant impacts and does not warrant separate environmental review as outlined in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11.

Prepared by: Rebecca Fox, Senior Planner

Date: March 26, 2013